Submission cover sheet

Inquiry into E-PET-078-25 and PET-041-26: Make career guidance a right for every ACT Year 7–10 public school student

Submission number: 007

Submitter: Shannen Cameron

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To whom it may concern,

I have been working in schools since April 2023. I temporarily stepped into my current position in January 2024 and was officially appointed to the role in November 2024. Since taking on this position, I have become increasingly aware of the importance of providing students with meaningful, informed and individualised career guidance as they prepare for life beyond school.

I have not had the opportunity to undertake formal career education or complete a qualification in career development. This is not due to a lack of commitment or willingness to further my education. Instead, the financial cost of undertaking a Certificate IV in Career Development in currently a significant barrier.

I am committed to investing the time and effort required to gain the appropriate qualifications so that I can be a better support for our current and future students. However, it is concerning that there appear to be limited financial supports for scholarship opportunities available, specifically to our non-teaching school staff.

This creates a broader issue for students. Not every school in the ACT has access to a qualified career practitioner, meaning that students access to specialised career guidance can depend on the recourses and staffing available within their individual school. Career education is an important part of preparing young people for further education, training, employment and the decision they will make after leaving school.

I want to continue developing professionally and provide the best possible support for our students. I would welcome consideration of how the ACT can better support school-based staff who are willing and able to undertake the necessary qualifications but face financial barriers to do so.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my experience and the broader issue of access to qualified career practitioners across ACT schools.

Kind regards,
Shannen Cameron